

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208503

41

ORIGIN ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-04 OMB-01 PA-04 PM-07 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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NSC:MHIGGINS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 208503

TAGS:MBFR,PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: MBFR: UK REQUEST FOR US/UK BILATERALS

REF: LONDON 9150, PARA 4

1. SEPT. 18 BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER MAKINS FORMALLY REQUESTED US/UK BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON MBFR, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON OPTION III ISSUES. HE SAID BRITISH WOULD PREFER OCTOBER 10 AND 11; EMPHASIZED THAT UK DID NOT CONSIDER THIS DISCUSSION SUBSTITUTE FOR FURTHER TRILATERALS; AND ASSERTED THAT THIS REQUEST HAD BEEN CHECKED OUT WITH FRG FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH WELCOMED BILATERAL ANGLO-AMERICAN DISCUSSIONS BEFORE FURTHER TRILATERALS. HE ADDED THAT IF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 208503

OCTOBER 10-11 DATES WERE SATISFACTORY TO US, BRITISH AND

GERMANS WILL HOLD PREPARATORY TALKS AMONG THEMSELVES CIRCA OCTOBER 4.

2. IN RESPONSE WE INTEND TO TAKE FOLLOWING LINE WITH BRITISH EMBASSY HERE: WE WELCOME BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UK. THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON INTRODUCING OPTION III INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. USG CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III AND ITS IMPLICATIONS IS STILL GOING ON. THEREFORE, WE DOUBT THAT WE WOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD ON OPTION III BEYOND DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED IN MARCH. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, OTHER MBFR RELATED TOPICS SUCH AS AIR MANPOWER AND FORCE

RECATEGORY WHICH WE COULD USEFULLY DISCUSS.

3. ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IF BRITISH RAISE QUESTION OF BILATERAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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